Telephone Lines Jammed

Telephone lines here were jammed beyond capacity Friday in the first hour after news came out of the fatal shooting of President Kennedy, according to a spokesman for the Southern New England Telephone Co.

The heavy demand caused a loss of dial tone in many instances, but because most calls were of short duration, the loss was momentary, he said.

The spokesman surmised that few, if any, business calls were actually made between 2 and 3 o'clock Friday, as the telephones were taken over by wives calling husbands at work, neighbors calling neighbors and friends calling friends, to ask in stunned voices, "Have you heard the news."

At the telephone company, office workers were pressed into service to help out long distance operators as the volume of toll calls also jumped far above normal. Extra operators were put on at night.

At 3 o'clock, the calls started to taper off but were still above normal.